



RMC
Rural Maryland Council



Quarterly Newsletter



Photo: House Bill 596/Senate Bill 511 signing at the Maryland State House on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, for the approval of the Health and Human Services Transportation Improvement Act of 2023.

Message from the Chair

Our Spring Quarterly Executive Board Meeting was held on Friday, March 31, 2023, at the Banneker Douglass Museum in Annapolis, Maryland. Highlights of the meeting included Secretary Kevin Anderson, Maryland Department of Commerce as a guest speaker and RMC committee updates were also shared. Our next Quarterly Executive Board meeting will be held on Friday, September 22, 2023, a location is yet to be determined.

The Rural Maryland Council along with USDA Rural Development held a Regional Rural Broadband Forum on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland. The forum allowed attendees to connect with other stakeholders interested in broadband access and to discuss ways to maximize available funding for rural broadband initiatives. Breakout sessions were held on the latest broadband technologies, funding for broadband infrastructure projects, making your community attractive to providers, and using public-private partnerships for broadband development. Our keynote speaker was President of CTC Technology & Energy Ms. Joanne Hovis. Other special guest speakers included Secretary Jake Day of Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development and the Comptroller of Maryland, Brooke Lierman. View PowerPoint presentations from the forum [here](#).

Save the Date! The 2023 Rural Summit: Pathways to Prosperity will be held on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Annapolis, Maryland. We are currently looking for sponsors and speakers. If you are interested in sponsoring our summit, please view or sponsorship form [here](#). To fill out a Call for Speaker proposal form, visit the link at: [2023 Rural Summit Call for Proposals \(wufoo.com\)](#). Stay tuned for more upcoming details.

As always, we continuously strive to collaborate among federal, state, and local government, for-profit, nonprofit, and grassroots organizations to implement ways to improve the quality of life for all of rural Maryland. Please feel free to contact us at (410) 841-5772 or rmc.mda@maryland.gov. We want to hear your thoughts and ideas on how to better improve rural Maryland.

Sincerely,



Susan O'Neill
Chair

Message from the Executive Director

The 2023 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session adjourned on Monday, April 10, 2023. The Rural Maryland Council's grant programs - the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund and the Maryland Agricultural Education Rural Development Assistance Fund, received level funding in Fiscal Year 2024. We thank Governor Wes Moore, Senate President Bill Ferguson, and House Speaker Adrienne Jones for their support. During the session, the RMC Legislative Committee met to discuss bills, testimonies, and other legislative matters. Four events were held during the session including a Welcome Breakfast for Legislators that was held on January 13, 2023, at the Maryland Inn in Annapolis, Maryland. We would like to thank our sponsors [Maryland Farm Bureau](#), [Maryland Community Action Partnership](#), [Maryland Rural Health Association](#) and the [Community Development Network](#) for their generosity in sponsoring the breakfast. Our Legislative Lunch was held on Friday, January 27, 2023, at the Calvert House in Annapolis, Maryland in partnership with [Forever Maryland](#). Secretary Kevin Atticks, Maryland Department of Agriculture was our featured guest speaker. Rural Maryland Day was held virtually on February 9, 2023, attendees were able to connect with legislators one on one to discuss the issues of rural Maryland. Maryland Day was held on Friday, March 24, 2023, at Lawyers Mall in Annapolis, Maryland. We would like to give a special thank you to the sponsors - [Maryland Broadband Cooperative](#), [Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Corporation](#), [Maryland Department of Agriculture- Maryland's Best](#), [Horizon Farm Credit](#), [MARBIDCO](#), [Maryland Heritage Areas Coalition](#), and the [Southern Maryland National Heritage Area](#). The RMC is grateful for the hard work of its Legislative Committee and rural advocates who made the 2023 session a success.

The RMC Grant Cycle has closed for Fiscal Year 2024. We received 187 applications requesting \$17,981,664 in funding. There was a total of 100 MAERDAF applications requesting \$3,672,140 and a total of 87 RMPHF applications requesting \$14,309,524. The RMC Grant Review Board will meet on Friday, June 9, 2023, to discuss Phase 1 -Letters of Intent submissions. Thank you to all of the organizations that applied for our grant programs for Fiscal Year 2024. Awardees will be announced the week of August 14, 2023.

Mark your calendars for this year's Tawes Crab and Clam Bake that will be held on Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at Somers Cove Marina in Crisfield, Maryland. The J. Millard Tawes Crab and Clam Bake is a Maryland must-attend, see-and-be-seen political institution, equal parts seafood and schmooze. If you are interested in attending this event, please find more information at the following link: [J. Millard Tawes Crab & Clam Bake | Lower Eastern Shore Maryland \(lesmd.net\)](#)

At the end of March, we welcomed new staff member Molli Cole. She will be our new Program Coordinator and we look forward to working with her! Her email address is molli.cole@maryland.gov and her phone number is 410-841-5916. If the Council or I can ever be of any assistance, please contact me at charlotte.davis@maryland.gov or (410) 841-5774.

Sincerely,



Events

[Transfer of Wealth Committee Meeting](#)

7/11/2023
10 am - 12 pm

[Broadband Symposium Debrief](#)

7/12/2023
2 pm - 3 pm

[FY2024 MAERDAF/RMPHF Phase Two Proposals Due](#)

7/14/2023
All Day

[Rural Summit Planning Committee Meeting](#)

8/8/2023
1 pm - 2 pm

Committee Updates



RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee

The RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee's next meeting is to be determined.

To learn more about the RMC Joint Planning and Development Committee, please contact the RMC at rmc.mda@maryland.gov



RMC Legislative Committee

The RMC Legislative Committee will meet in Summer of 2023 to discuss the upcoming 2024 Legislative Session.

To learn more about the RMC Legislative Committee, please contact the RMC at rmc.mda@maryland.gov.

RMC In the News

[Rural Maryland Council Aids Skidder Purchase](#)

February 22, 2023

[ACM's Zimmer Theatre Receives \\$2.6 Million in Renovation Funds](#)

March 7, 2023

[Carroll Community College hosts 6th annual MAGIC Hackathon](#)

March 24, 2023

[Dr. Heidi Milia Anderson](#)

April 28, 2023

[SMADC Launches Southern Maryland's First Community Fridge Program to Tackle Food Insecurity](#)

May 1, 2023

[Rural Maryland Council celebrates bill signing of Health and Human Services Transportation Act](#)

May 10, 2023



RMC Agriculture Committee

The RMC Agriculture Committee met on May 16, 2023, at the Maryland Department of Agriculture. The next meeting date is to be determined.

To learn more about the RMC Agriculture Committee, please contact the RMC at rmc.mda@maryland.gov



RMC Health Committee

The RMC Health Committee will meet on Wednesday, August 23, 2023, 10 am - 11 am via zoom.

To learn more about the RMC Health Committee, please contact the RMC at rmc.mda@maryland.gov



RMC Rural Housing Working Committee

The RMC Rural Housing Committee will meet on Wednesday, August 30, 2023, 11 am - 12 pm via zoom.

To learn more about the RMC Rural Housing Working Committee, please contact the RMC at rmc.mda@maryland.gov

Check out what's happening in rural Maryland...

Training Opportunities & Conferences

- [Nutrient Management Plan Changes Sessions](#) - Maryland Department of Agriculture June - July 2023
- [Maryland Association of Counties Conference](#) - August 16-19, 2023 - Maryland Association of Counties

Awards and Grants

- [Recompete Pilot Program Funding Opportunity](#) - Economic Development Administration - Applications due on October 5, 2023
- [Maryland Livestock Processing Grant](#) - Maryland Agricultural Resource - Based Industry Development Corporation

Programs and More

- [2050 Maryland Transportation Plan Survey](#) - Maryland Department of Transportation
- [Maryland Equestrian Sports Survey](#) - Maryland Horse Council
- [Deadline Extended for Chefs to Submit Recipes for Governor Moore's 'Buy Local Cookout'](#) - Maryland Department of Agriculture
- [Class XIII Applications now available](#) - LEAD Maryland

Email: rmc.mda@maryland.gov to share links to your events and programs.



Rural Maryland
Foundation

The Rural Maryland Foundation will meet on **Thursday, October 5, 2023, 10 am - 12 pm via zoom.**

To learn more about the Rural Maryland Foundation or to become a member, please visit the website at ruralmdfoundation.org.

Comptroller of Maryland Announces New Advisory Councils and Work Groups to Help Guide Agency

Maryland Comptroller Brooke Lierman announced that she will be convening 11 new Advisory Councils and Work Groups to provide opportunities for members of the public to help advise the agency on its strategic direction. An application process has been opened for those who would like to serve on these groups.

“A key recommendation of our Transition Report was to strengthen the links between the Comptroller and community by creating work groups to hear from residents, make recommendations, and ask questions of the administration. Today's announcement is a major step forward toward delivering on that goal and ensuring that our operations are strongly and continually rooted in best serving Marylanders,” Maryland Comptroller Brooke E. Lierman said. “I am excited to build these new bridges between our team and the public and encourage anyone interested in applying to do so right away.”

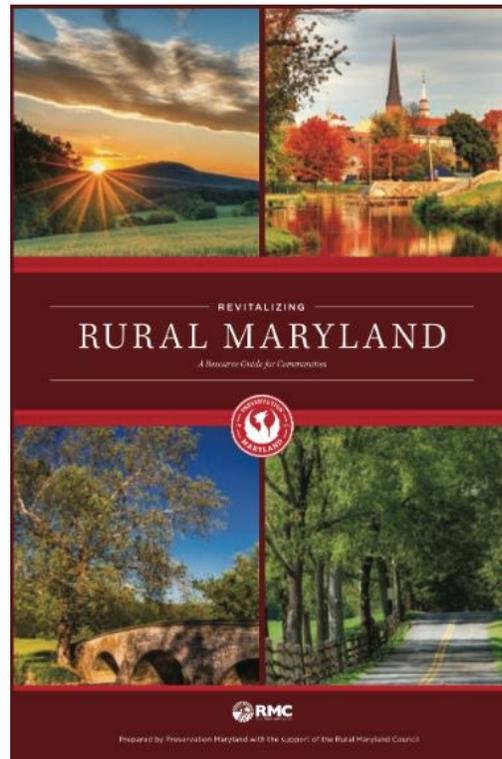
The Office of the Comptroller will establish 11 new Advisory Councils and Work Groups, including:

- Business Advisory Council
- Climate Advisory Council
- Faith Leaders Advisory Council
- Financial Literacy Advisory Council
- Information Technology Work Group
- Labor Advisory Council
- Local Government Advisory Council
- New Americans Advisory Council
- Staff Advisory Council
- Tax Practice Work Group
- Women's Economic Empowerment Council

The Comptroller's Advisory Councils and Work Groups are expected to begin meeting this summer. Groups will meet quarterly, and members will serve two-year terms. Only those individuals who submit a completed application will be eligible to serve on an Advisory Council or Work Group. The deadline to apply is June 23, 2023. Applications and additional details are available at

“I am dedicated to creating an Office of the Comptroller that champions policies and forges partnerships that help make Maryland more equitable, resilient and prosperous,” Comptroller Lierman said. “By bringing together residents from all walks of life and with a wide variety of perspectives and experience, these new Advisory Councils and Work Groups will help increase the agency’s transparency and effectiveness, ultimately enabling us to better deliver on our mission of serving the people of Maryland.”

Updated Revitalizing Rural Communities Resource Guide



Preservation Maryland recently updated their Revitalizing Rural Communities Resource Guide. The goal of this guide is to connect communities to the tools and resources they need to succeed and to identify useful case studies from which communities can draw inspiration and assistance. This guide is designed to assist with that step and to provide an at-a-glance level of information on the key programs that support redevelopment and revitalization in rural Maryland. Depending on your project, the next step may involve digging deeper into the specific program’s website or connecting with someone in your community who may have more information. The case studies show how it can all come together in the form of a project – and while not every aspect of the case studies may apply to your effort, they tend to underscore the diverse funding streams that make it happen and the tenacity that anyone must have to pull off this work in rural communities. This guide was created with funding help from the Rural Maryland Council. View the resource guide [here](#).

MAERDAF Spotlight - MAGIC uses a \$15,000 RMC grant to reimagine cybersecurity careers in rural communities

One Westminster, Maryland non-profit organization seeks to address the unmet need for future cybersecurity professionals as well as a desire to reverse the brain-drain trend in rural communities. While a huge supply and demand gap in any industry is troubling, what’s even more concerning is the rise in the number of incidents in ransomware attacks, data breaches, and other cyber-attacks. The grant project called CyberJobs is the creation of Mid-Atlantic Gigabit Innovation



Collaboratory, Inc. (MAGIC), and is supported by a \$15,000 Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) grant, administered by the Rural Maryland Council. MAGIC has been able to expand the program into new rural counties, including Allegany, Charles, Frederick, Carroll, Garrett, and St. Mary's counties, and engage new partners to help meet their grant goals. One of the partners that MAGIC secured as a result of the grant is Allegany College of Maryland. View more about the grant project [here](#).

Photo: Graham Dodge, MAGIC executive director, and Autumn Becker, director of Western MD IT Center of Excellence at Allegany College of Maryland, check out the new Hack Lab at Allegany College of Maryland.

Special Feature - Maryland Day



Photo: From left, Lucille Walker (Maryland Heritage Areas Coalition), Delegate Edith Patterson, and Shelby Watson-Hampton (Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission) enjoying cookies made by Sweets & Treats by Sophia.



Photo: Maryland Day attendees waiting to get their grab-and-go lunch by the Chesapeake Culinary Center.

In recognition of Maryland farmers, watermen, and rural communities, the Rural Maryland Council held a grab-and-go lunch on Friday, March 24, 2023, at Lawyers Mall in Annapolis, Maryland. Maryland Day celebrates the formal founding of the colony of Maryland on March 25, 1634. Even in the rain, the event was a success. We would like to give a special thank you to the sponsors that provided the lunch from the Chesapeake Culinary Center - [Maryland Broadband Cooperative](#), [Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Corporation](#), [Maryland Department of Agriculture- Maryland's Best](#), [Horizon Farm Credit](#), [MARBIDCO](#), [Maryland Heritage Areas Coalition](#), and the [Southern Maryland National Heritage Area](#).

Learn more about the great vendors that provided samples during the event through the following links- [The Waterman's Wife](#), [Sweets & Treats By Sophia](#), [Maryland's Best](#), [Palmyra Farm Cheese LLC](#), and the [Chesapeake Culinary Center](#).

Development Council under the United States Department of Agriculture's National Rural Development Partnership. Our mission is to bring together federal, state, county, and municipal government officials as well as representatives of the for-profit and nonprofit sectors to identify challenges unique to rural communities and to develop and implement policy solutions. As a collaborative partnership, the RMC operates under the guidance of a 40-member Executive Board, in a nonpartisan and nondiscriminatory manner.

Rural Maryland Council | 410-841-5772 | rmc.mda@maryland.gov | <http://www.rural.maryland.gov/>
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401
Copyright © 2023. All Rights Reserved.

Rural Maryland Council | 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401

[Unsubscribe rmc.mda@maryland.gov](mailto:rmc.mda@maryland.gov)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by rmc.mda@maryland.gov powered by



Try email marketing for free today!